

Senate Resolution 56

By: Senator Ramsey, Sr. of the 43rd

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Vulnerable Adult Study Committee; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the General Assembly has recognized that many citizens of this state, because
3 of their age or because of a serious and persistent mental illness, degenerative brain disorder,
4 developmental or physical disabilities, or other like incapacities, are in need of emergency
5 protective placement should they become the victim of abuse, neglect, or exploitation; and

6 WHEREAS, the lack of emergency protective placement for victims of abuse who are elders
7 or adults with disabilities is a nationwide issue and was identified as a problem in Georgia
8 as early as 1993 by the Senate Elder Abuse Task Force, which discovered that "there is an
9 intense need in Georgia to establish a comprehensive emergency alternative placement
10 network for abused elderly citizens"; and

11 WHEREAS, the task force found that in Georgia there are no specialized shelters that
12 provide services for victims of elder or disabled adult abuse who need safe shelter and
13 recommended that the General Assembly urge private organizations, such as civic clubs, to
14 provide funding for emergency intervention and placement of the elderly; and

15 WHEREAS, because of the growth of the population of disabled adults and those over the
16 age of 65 in the past several decades, the increased need for emergency placement is reaching
17 epic proportions; and

18 WHEREAS, the absence of emergency placement for victims of disabled adult or elder abuse
19 subjects victims to the ongoing risks associated with abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and

20 WHEREAS, emergency protective placement should allow the individual the same rights as
21 other citizens and protect the individual from financial exploitation, abuse, neglect, and
22 self-neglect; and

23 WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the state to continue the work of the Senate Elder
24 Abuse Task Force to recommend solutions for the creation and development of a plan for
25 emergency placement of disabled adults and elder victims of abuse; and

26 WHEREAS, statistical data and information regarding the extent of the problem should be
27 collected and the establishment of arrangements with the Division of Aging of the
28 Department of Human Resources to have designated emergency beds in certain nursing
29 facilities and to provided medicaid funding and a streamlined admission procedure for
30 temporary emergency placement of disabled adults and elder victims of abuse in long-term
31 care facilities with available beds should be considered.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
33 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Vulnerable Adult Study Committee. The committee
34 shall consist of six members. Three members of the House of Representatives shall be
35 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, who shall designate one of such
36 members as a co-chairperson of the committee. Three members of the Senate shall be
37 appointed by the President of the Senate, who shall designate one of such members as a
38 co-chairperson of the committee. The co-chairpersons shall call all meetings of the
39 committee.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
41 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any action
42 or legislation which the committee deems necessary or appropriate. The committee may
43 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
44 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
45 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. The members of the committee
46 shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of
47 Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be received by
48 any member of the committee for more than five days unless additional days are authorized.
49 The funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come from the funds
50 appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the event the committee
51 makes a report of its findings and recommendations, with suggestions for proposed
52 legislation, if any, such report shall be made on or before December 1, 2009. The committee
53 shall stand abolished on December 1, 2009.